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To Colo^d Mordant

From S^r William Hamilton

June 1871

at the residence of

A C C O U N T

O F

The DISCOVERIES at POMPEII,

COMMUNICATED TO

The SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES of LONDON

B Y

The Hon. Sir WILLIAM HAMILTON, Knight of the Bath,

ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY and PLENIPOTENTIARY

From HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY to the COURT of NAPLES.

L O N D O N:
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MDCC LXXVII.



*Account of the Discoveries at Pompeii, communicated
by Sir William Hamilton.*

Read at the SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES, Jan. 26, Feb. 2—9, 1775.

Plate I.

View of the Place of Arms at the little Gate of Pompeii
towards Stabia.

A COLONADE, round a square court, not yet cleared from the rubbish of pumice stones, and ashes, B. B. by which the city was overwhelmed. The columns are of coarse stone, coated with plaister or stucco, and coloured. On many of the columns, the soldiers have idly scratched their names, some in Greek, and some in Latin.

C. C. C. Rooms, in which the soldiers were quartered. The skeletons of some were found in them; as also several helmets, and pieces of armour for the arms, thighs, and legs, but none for the breast. These pieces of armour are mostly ornamented with Dolphins and Tridents in relievo, and some are encrusted with such ornaments in silver, which most probably indicates their having been destined for sea service.

B

THE

THE helmets are singularly formed, not unlike the hats used by the firemen in London. Some are very richly ornamented, and one particularly beautiful and interesting, with the principal events of the taking of Troy admirably executed in relief. Some have vizors, like the helmets of the lower ages, with gratings or round holes to see through. From their size and weight, it has been disputed, whether they had been really worn, or were only intended as ornaments for trophies; but, as I was present at the discovery of some of them, and saw distinctly part of the linings which were then adhering to them, and are now fallen out, I have no doubt as to their having been worn. A curious trumpet of brass, with six ivory flutes attached to the outside of it, and all communicating to one mouth-piece, was found in one of these rooms. The flutes are without holes for the fingers. A chain of bronze hung to it, probably that the trumpeter might sling it over his shoulder. It might be a very proper military instrument, and produce a spirited *Clangor Tubarum*, but not much variety or harmony.

IN the prison of this barrack, the skeletons of several soldiers were found, and some with iron fetters on their leg-bones; their skulls are now placed on the shelves D. for the inspection of the curious. It is certain, that in these skulls, and in many others, that have been found at Pompeii, the teeth are remarkably sound; perhaps among the Ancients, who did not make use of sugar, they might not be so subject to decay as ours.



Plate II.

The poor remains of a temple and altar near the place of arms. It had been discovered and stripped before his Sicilian Majesty carried on his works here. The peasants, digging to plant their vines, often broke into houses and temples, and used to carry on a good trade with what they found therein. The present workmen often discover the evident signs of former excavations.

B. A Semicircular stone-seat at the side of the temple.

C. Pumice, and rubbish, over the uncleared part of the city.

D. The island of Caprea.

E. The coast of Sorrento.

F. The town of Castell a Mare; near which is the ancient city of Stabia, buried at the same time as Pompeii by the ashes of Mount Vesuvius. Here it was also that Pliny the Elder lost his life.

BEFORE the king of Spain left Naples, excavations were carried on there, and many of the beautiful monuments of antiquity, now in the Museum at Portici, were taken from thence. When the researches were carried on at Herculaneum, and Pompeii was opened, the entrance into the ancient city of Stabia was walled up, and remains so. By the accounts I have received from the inspector of these works, when carried on at Stabia, there is a great probability, that further very curious and interesting discoveries might be made in that city.

Plate III.

A. Uncleared rubbish. Over the pumice stones and ashes is a stratum of good soil, on which vines grow, as they do over every uncleared part of the buried city.

B. B. B. Rooms, some of which were enriched with elegant paintings in Arabesque compartments, that have been cut out, and deposited in the Museum at Portici. Most of the floors are of tessellated Mosaic; the best of which have been carried also to the Museum at Portici, and actually serve as floors of rooms in that Museum.

C. Little door, through which you descend a stair-case into the subterraneous room represented in Plate IV.

Plate IV.

A. Room adjoining to the bathing apartment, and where, probably, the linen belonging to the baths was washed.

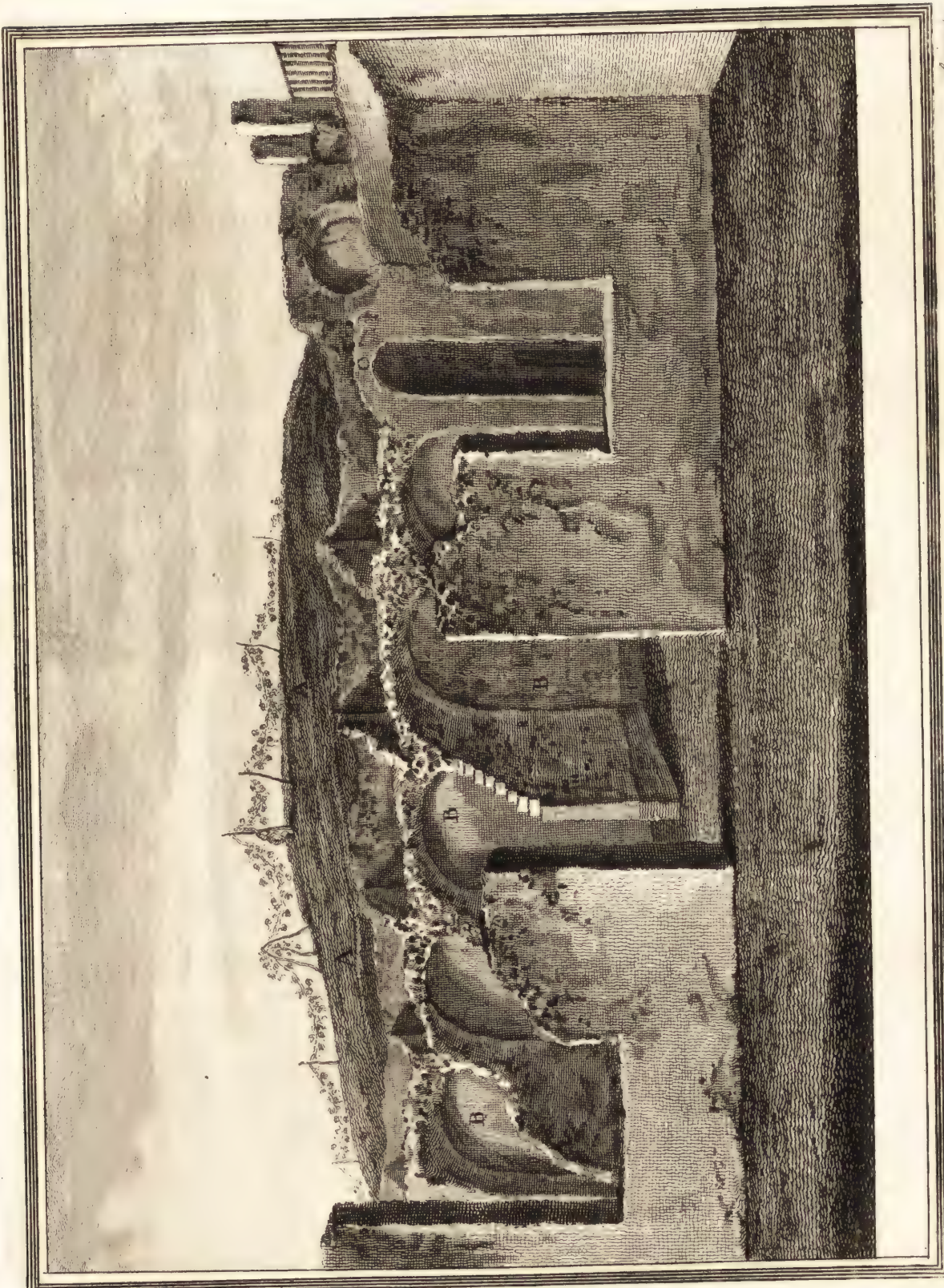
B. Well.

C. Washing vessel of earthen ware.

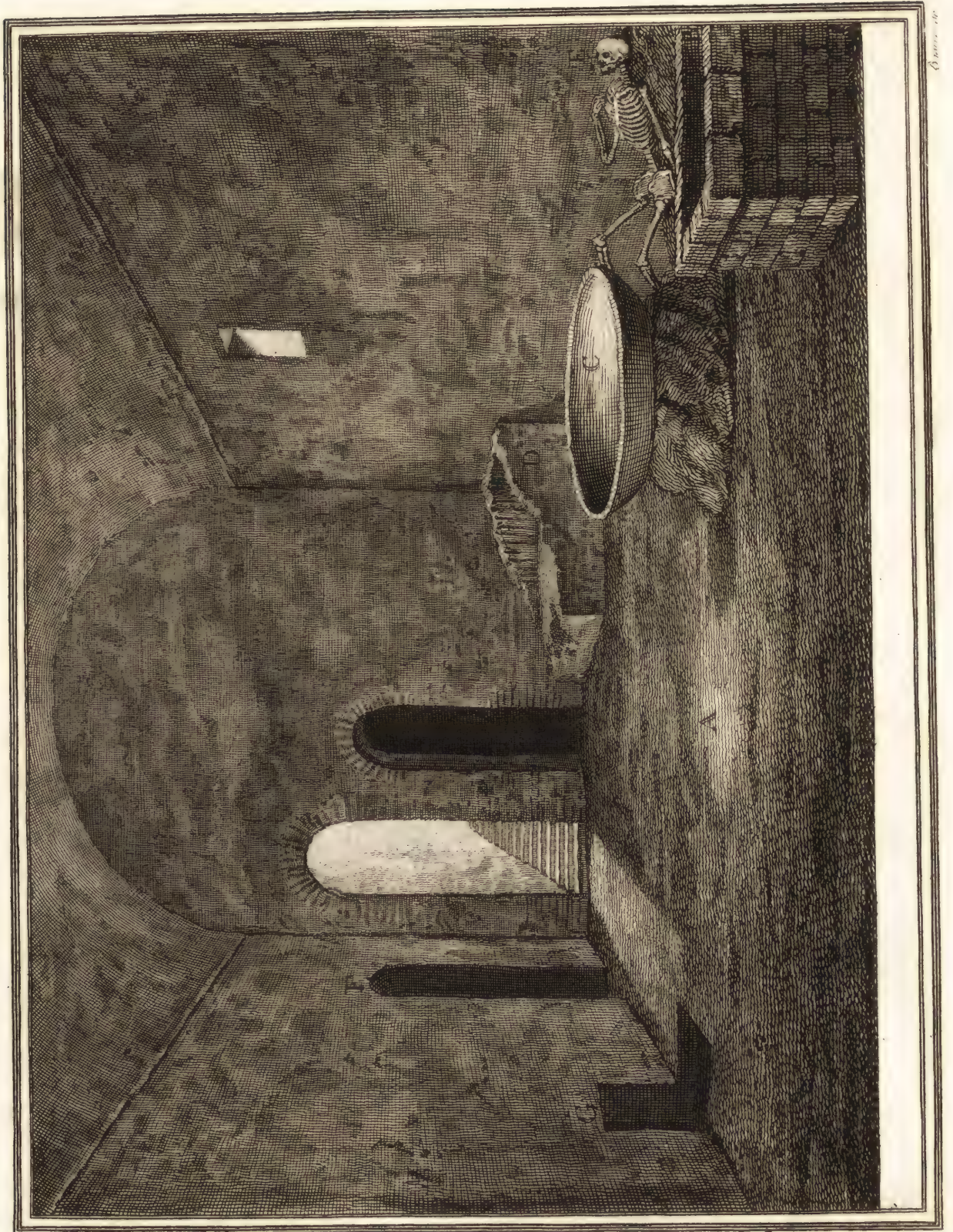
D. Fire-place, on which a large boiler of bronze was found, which is now, amongst the kitchen utensils, deposited in the Museum at Portici.

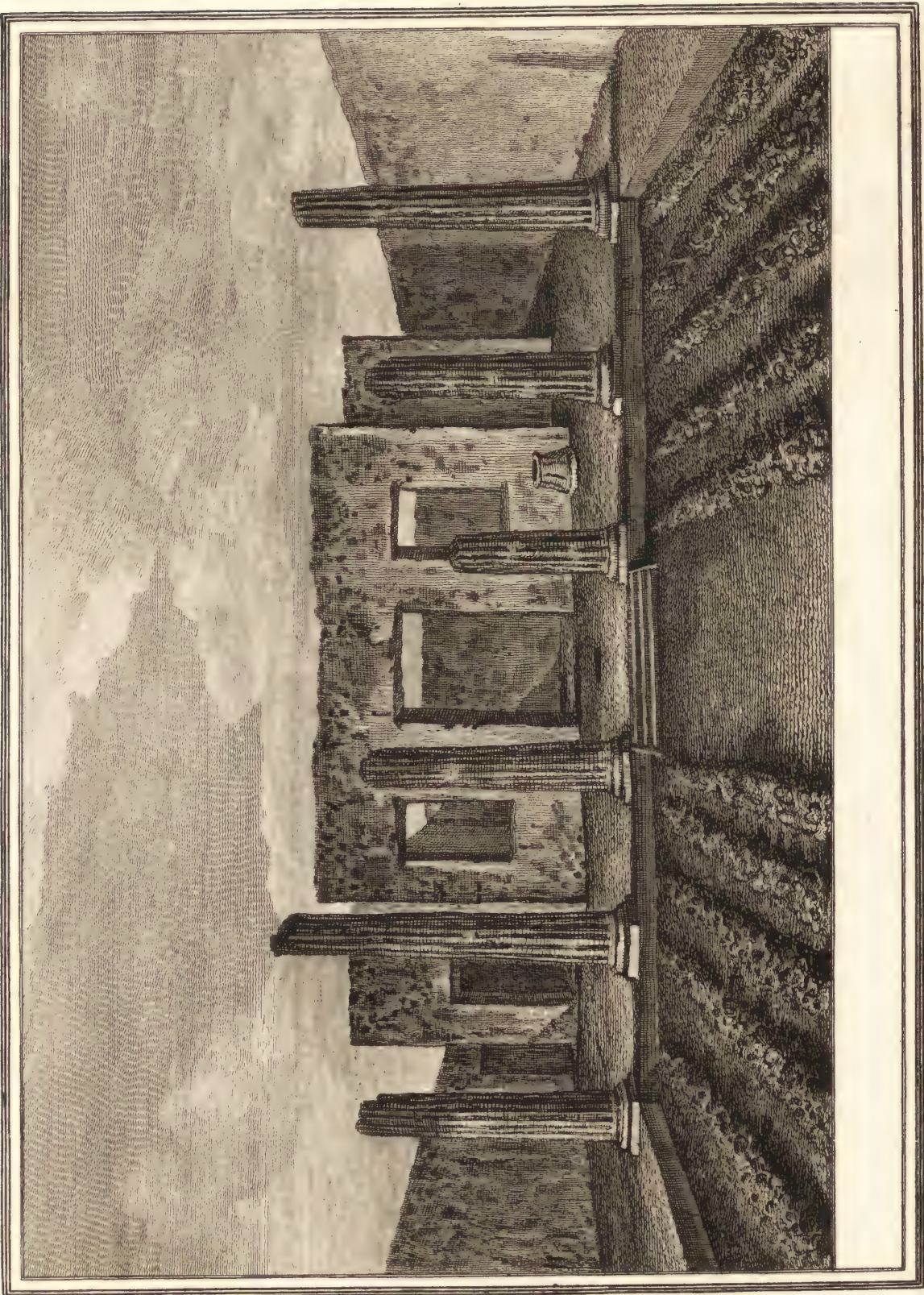
E. Skeleton of the washer-woman (for anatomists say it is that of a female); she seems to have been shut up in this vault,

Brown 18.









vault, the stair case having been filled with rubbish, and to have waited for death with calm resignation, and true Roman fortitude, as the attitude of the skeleton really seems to indicate. It was at my instigation, that the bones were left untouched on the spot where they were found.

F. Door leading to the stove-room next the bath, which is in a small circular room.

G. Fire-place, that heated the stove-room.

Plate V.

A small house, and garden, near the Temple of Isis. A covered cloyster, supported by columns, goes round the house, as was customary in many of the houses at Pompeii. The rooms in general are very small, and in one, where an iron bedstead was found, the wall had been pared away to make room for this bedstead; so that it was not six feet square, and yet this room was most elegantly painted, and had a tessellated or Mosaic floor. The weight of the matter erupted from Mount Vesuvius has universally damaged the upper parts of the houses; the lower parts are mostly found as fresh as the moment they were buried. The plan of most of the houses at Pompeii is a square court, with a fountain in the middle, and small rooms round, communicating with that court.

By the construction and distribution of the houses, it seems that the inhabitants of Pompeii were fond of privacy. They had few windows towards the street, except when, from the nature of the plan, they could not avoid it; but even in that case the
windows

windows were placed too high for any one in the streets to overlook them.

THEIR houses nearly resembled each other, both as to distribution of plan, and in the manner of finishing the apartments. The rooms are in general small, from ten to twelve feet, and from fourteen to eighteen feet; few communications between room and room; almost all without windows, except the apartments situated to the garden, which are thought to have been allotted to the women.

THEIR *Cortiles* were often surrounded by porticos, in very small houses. Not but there were covered galleries before the doors of their apartments, to afford shade and shelter. No timber was used in finishing their apartments, except in doors, and windows. The floors were generally laid in Mosaic work. One general taste prevailed of painting the sides and ceilings of the rooms. Small figures, and medallions of low relief, were sometimes introduced. Their great variety consisted in the colours, and in the choice and delicacy of the ornaments, in which they displayed great harmony and taste. Their houses were some two, others three stories high.

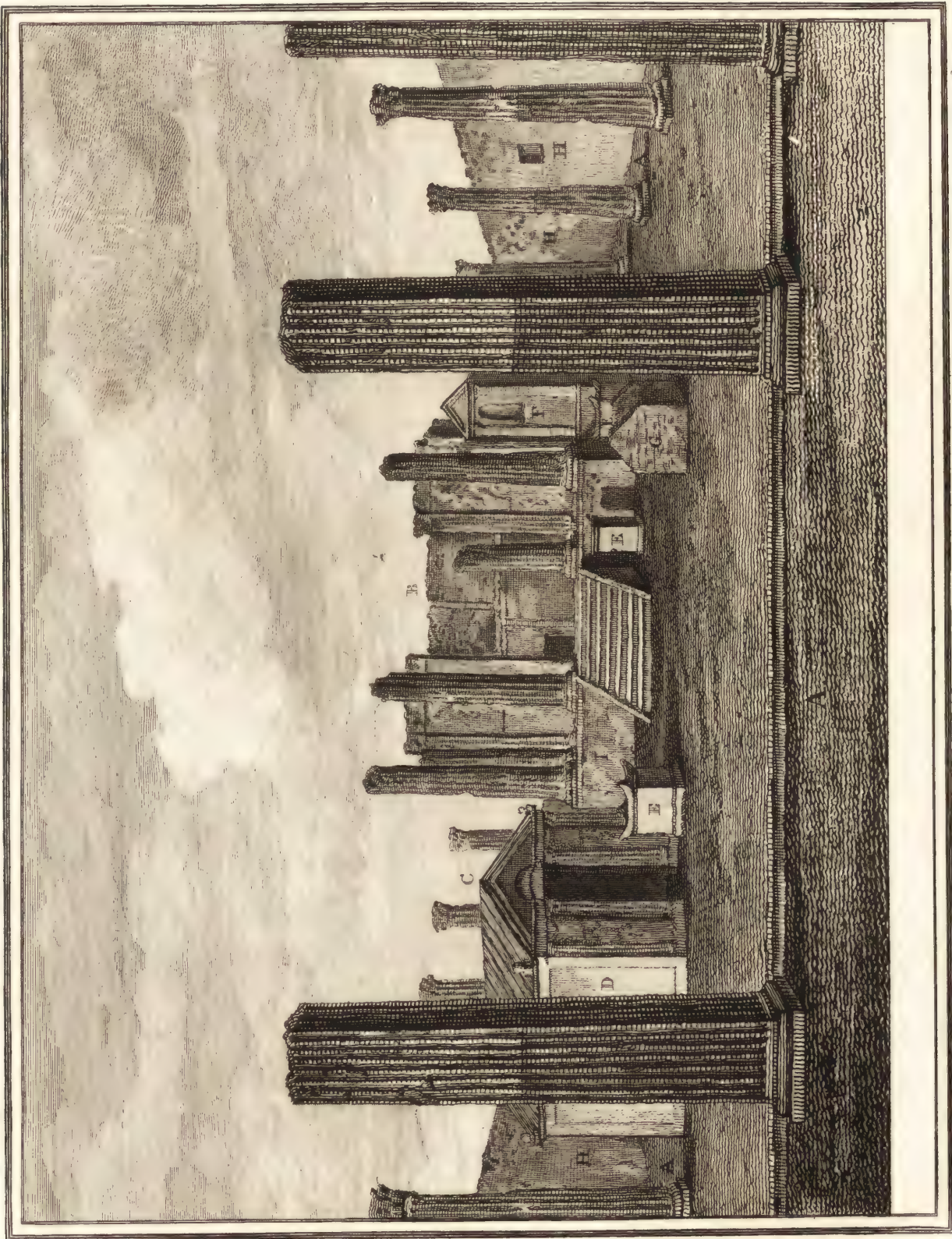
Plate VI.

Interior View of the Chapel of Isis.

A. Covered Cloyster.

B. Great Altar, on which probably was placed the principal statue of the Deity; but, as there were evident signs of previous searches in this spot, nothing of consequence was found.

C. Temple,



C. Temple, covering the sacred well, to which you descend by steps. Generally, there is a foul vapour, or moffette, as it is called here, like the damp of mines, which prevents your going down these steps. In the pediment over the door of the temple, in stucco relief, is a vase with a figure on each side of it in the act of adoration. This vase was probably the symbol of Isis, who was adored as water, earth, or fire. The other stucco ornaments on the front of the temple allude to the Egyptian worship, being composed of the flower Lotus, the Sistrum, the Gods Anubis, Harpocrates, &c. and the stuccos are in some parts coloured.

THE ornaments on the side D. represent Perseus with the Gorgon's head; and on the opposite side Mars, and Venus, with flying Cupids carrying the arms of Mars.

E. E. E. Altars of different sizes. On the great one, next the sacred well, the burnt bones of the victims were found, some of which still remain there.

F. Nich, in which was found a marble statue of a female, with her fore-finger on her lips.

G. A well into which the ashes of the victims were thrown.

H. H. H. The walls of the cloysters, that were beautifully ornamented with Arabesque paintings, most of which have been cut out, and carried to the Museum at Portici. Nothing can be in a more exquisite taste, than the great foliage ornament, that went round the whole cloyster.

NEAR the great altar B. and against the wall marked I. was a tablet of basalte, with Egyptian hieroglyphics engraved thereon, which has been carried to the Museum at Portici.

OVER

OVER the great gate of the Chapel was the following Inscription in large characters, which has been likewise deposited in the Museum at Portici :

N. POPIDIUS N.F. CELSIVS
 AEDEM ISIDIS TERRAE MOTU CONLAPSAM
 A FVNDAMENTO P. SVA RESTITVIT.
 HVNC DECVRIONES OB LIBERALITATEM
 CVM ESSET ANNORVM SEX. ORDINI SVO
 GRATIS ADLEGERVNT.

It is pity that such monuments of antiquity as are not in immediate danger of suffering from the injuries of the weather, should have been removed from their places, where they would have afforded satisfaction and instruction to the curious who visit these antiquities. Many travellers have seen this chapel without knowing that it was certainly a chapel of Isis, and rebuilt by N. Popidius, after having been destroyed by an earthquake. The inscription, being now confounded with many others from Herculaneum and Stabia, in the court of the Museum at Portici, may have easily escaped their notice. The columns of the chapel of Isis are of brick covered with stucco, and painted.

IN a room behind the altar B. a skeleton was found with a plate near it, on which were the bones of a fish; and the utensils that had been used in dressing that fish were found in a little kitchen adjoining. In another room was likewise found a skeleton with an iron crow lying near it. The paintings of the sides of this room, and even the brick wall, are much broken, probably by this person, who was inclosed by the cruel shower of pumice-stones and ashes that covered the city, and had been endeavouring, in vain, with the iron crow, to force his way out.



cut. Close to the chapel of Isis is a theatre, no more of which has been cleared than the scene and the corridor that leads to the seats. In this corridor, was a retiring-place for necessary occasions, where the pipe to convey the water, and the basin, like that of our water-closets, still remain; the wood of the seat only having mouldered away by time.

Plate VII.

A. Principal entrance of the city of Pompeii.

B. B. Seats of stone, one of which, with a sepulchral inscription, is now in the court of the Museum at Portici.

C. Pedestal of a colossal statue of bronze, some fragments of the drapery of which were found near it, the rest having probably been carried off by the peasants. Many curious monuments of this kind have been, as I am informed, melted down by them, and sold for the weight of the metal.

THE width of the horse-way of the street is in general about ten feet eight inches English, and the elevated foot way, on each side, is about three feet wide; but in some parts both horse and foot way are wider.

THE tracks of the wheels of carriages are plainly marked on the pavement, by which we see, that the wheels were near 4 feet asunder, and the wheel itself about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad.

IN a little room which you enter by the door D, was found the famous and beautiful Tripod of bronze supported by Priapi Fauns, which now stands on a table in the first room of the Museum at Portici. This gate of the town was discovered many years ago, (it is now twenty-seven years since the king of Spain began first to search at Pompeii), but it is not above five years

C

that

that they have thought proper to enter the town by the gate, having contented themselves with digging into houses here and there at random, taking out what they could find, and filling up the holes again.

E. E. Fragments of columns.

F. F. Uncleared rubbish over the city.

Plate VIII.

VIEW of the ruins of the houses on the right-hand side of the street as you enter the gate.

A. The first house was thought to have been an Inn. The bones of horses were found in the stables; and in the cellar large earthen vessels for wine.

THROUGH stones of the foot-pavement B. B. B. are holes bored, which probably served to pass the halters of horses or mules, while they stood at the doors of the houses.

C. The next house seemed, by what was found in the shop, to have been that of an apothecary.

D. The Priapus, cut in stone, and placed in a niche on the outside wall of this house, is called here the sign of the Brothel, which they suppose to have been kept in the house; but it has more probably been placed there in honour of the Deity so called, in the same manner as we see frequently now, against the houses of this country, a St. Francis, a St. Antony, &c. It is evident, from the very public situation, that such a representation did not in those days convey any indecent idea.

E. E. Vine yards over other parts of the city, as yet uncleared.

Plate







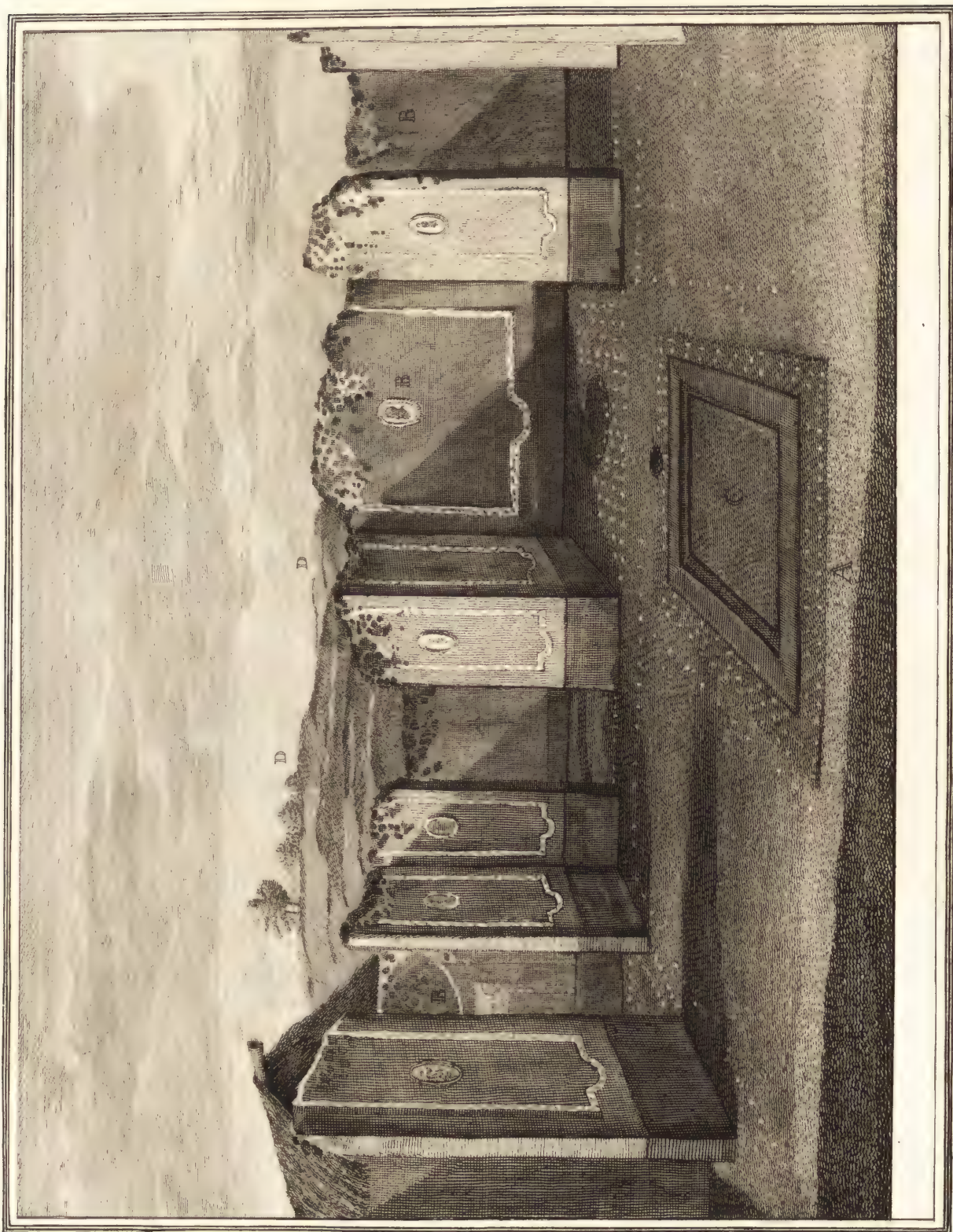


Plate IX.

VIEW of the left-hand side of the street as you enter the gate.

A. A. A. Shops. The tiled sheds, represented in the plate, are modern, and placed there to preserve the paintings on the walls, which are very lively. About one hundred yards only of the street has been as yet cleared; it is thought to run through the whole city, which is about an Italian mile in length, and about 3 miles $\frac{1}{2}$ round.

B. B. Vine yards and cottages over the uncleared city.

C. Entrance to the house, one of the best as yet discovered, and represented in Plate V.

Plate X.

A. Court with several rooms opening to it, one of which is thirty feet long by fifteen, the largest room as yet discovered at Pompeii.

B. B. B. The rooms; the paintings of which were very elegant; but the best parts have been cut out and transported to the Museum at Portici.

C. Where the rain-water was collected, and ran into a reservoir underneath.

D. D. Vine yards over the uncleared parts of the city.

Plate XI.

A. View of a great sepulchre, or columbarium, out of the gates of the city : several marble statues, not very well executed, were found therein, which are now in the Museum at Portici.

B. Colossal masks of terra cotta in the situation in which they were found.

UNDER them in vaults C. C. were found some sepulchral urns with ashes therein. One of the urns was of glass, with a cover of the same material; this urn was deposited in an earthen one, and that again covered with lead, which is now preserved in the Museum at Portici.

D. Uncleared parts of the city.

Plate XII.

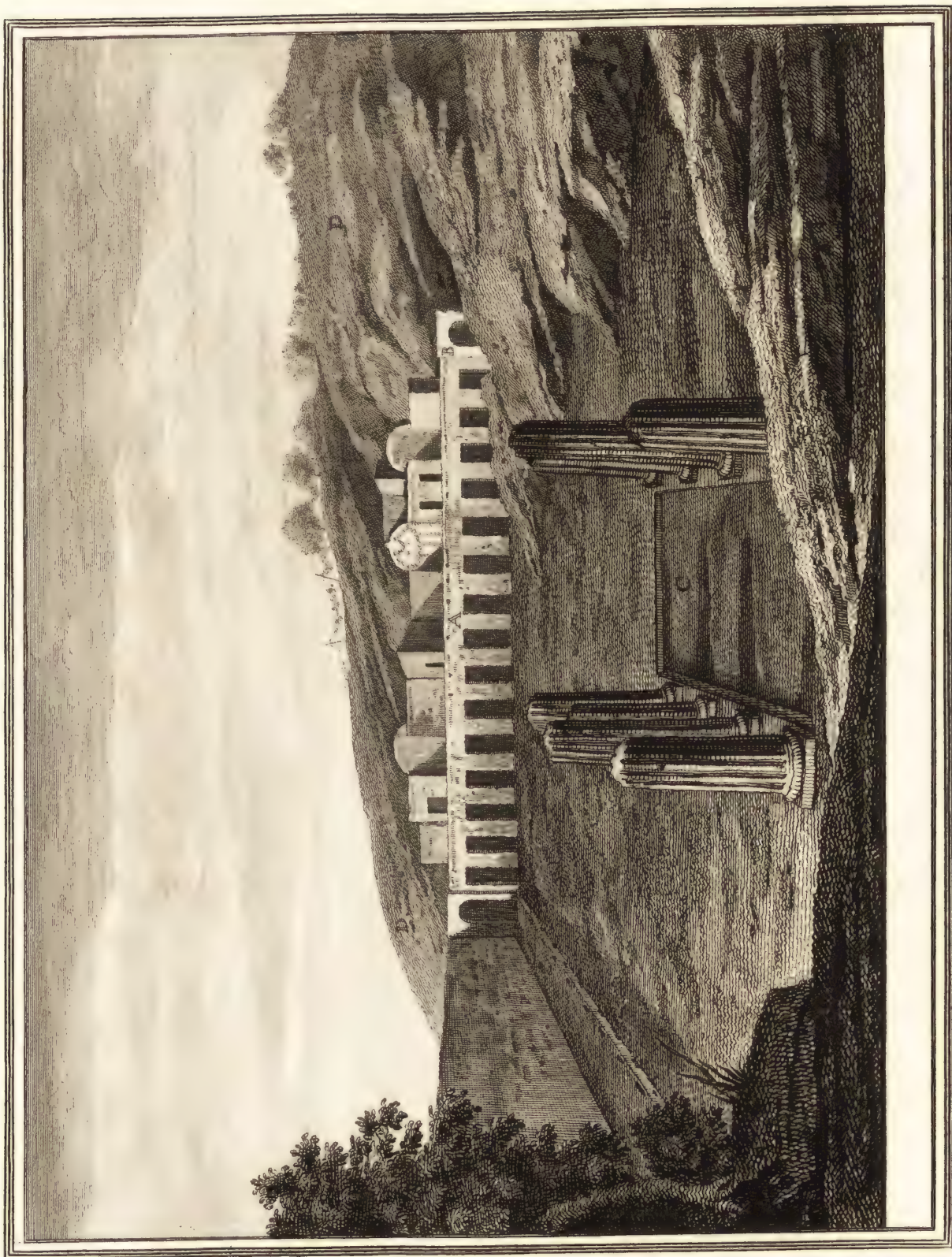
THE present excavations are carrying on at a fort of Villa Rustica out of the city.

THE Villa appears as represented A. The lower arcade is a covered walk for summer, looking into a garden and yard, into which open several coved rooms richly ornamented with paintings, as fresh as the day they were executed. Over this walk is an open terras leading to the greater apartments of the upper story. There is a hot and cold bath in this house.

BELOW stairs is a room, B. with a large bow-window; fragments of large panes of glass were found here, shewing, that the ancients knew well the use of glass for windows.

IN





IN the cellars, which are very spacious, and run under the covered arcade, are numbers of large earthen vases for wine, ranged against the walls; they are full of earth; the wine was probably covered with oil, and no otherwise secured, as is practised here now, the great bottles having no corks, but oil. The skeletons of twenty-three of the family were found in this cellar; some rings, ear-rings, &c. &c. and some coins of gold, silver, and brass, most of which are of the Emperor Galba.

THE back part of the Villa was designed for the farmer, the rooms of which are simply ornamented; several spades, pickaxes, and other implements of husbandry, were found there. It has a separate entry, and is perfectly shut out from the noble part of the Villa. Upon the whole, the plan of this house is very curious. It has been well taken by his Sicilian Majesty's order, and will probably be published in time, with the rest of the discoveries at Pompeii; and will afford infinite satisfaction to the lovers of antiquities.

IN the street, just out of the gate of this Villa, I saw lately a skeleton dug out; and, by desiring the labourers to remove the scull and bones gently, I perceived distinctly the perfect mould of every feature of the face, and that the eyes had been shut. I also saw distinctly the impression of the large folds of the drapery of the toga, and some of the cloth itself still sticking to the earth.

THE city was first covered by a shower of hot pumice-stones and ashes, and then by a shower of small ashes mixed with water. It was in the latter stratum that the skeleton above described was found. In the Museum at Portici a piece of this sort of hardened mud is preserved; it is stamped with the impression of the breast of a woman, with a thin drapery over it. The skeleton

I saw dug out was not above five feet from the surface. It is very extraordinary, that the impression of the body and face should have remained so entire from the year 79 to this day, especially as I found the earth so little hardened, that it separated upon the least touch.

C. Ruins of a building in the garden of the Villa.

D. D. Uncleared parts of Pompeii.

Plate XIII.

Ground Plan of the Chapel of Isis.

a. Covered portico, or cloyster. A gutter runs round this portico to convey away the water, which fell from the roof, and is described in the plan.

b. The Temple situated in the area of the portico.

c. Cell of the Temple.

d. An altar the length of the temple, on which the idols were placed; it was hollow beneath, and formed a cell, from whence it is supposed the oracles were issued.

e. e. e. e. Large altars before the Temple, without any marks of fire having been placed on them.

f. Altar on which the sacrifice was usually offered, if we may judge from its top being burnt, and from the wall of the adjoining building being much stained with smoke.

g. Altars placed between the columns of the portico, of which five only remain.

h. The sacred well, covered with a temple.

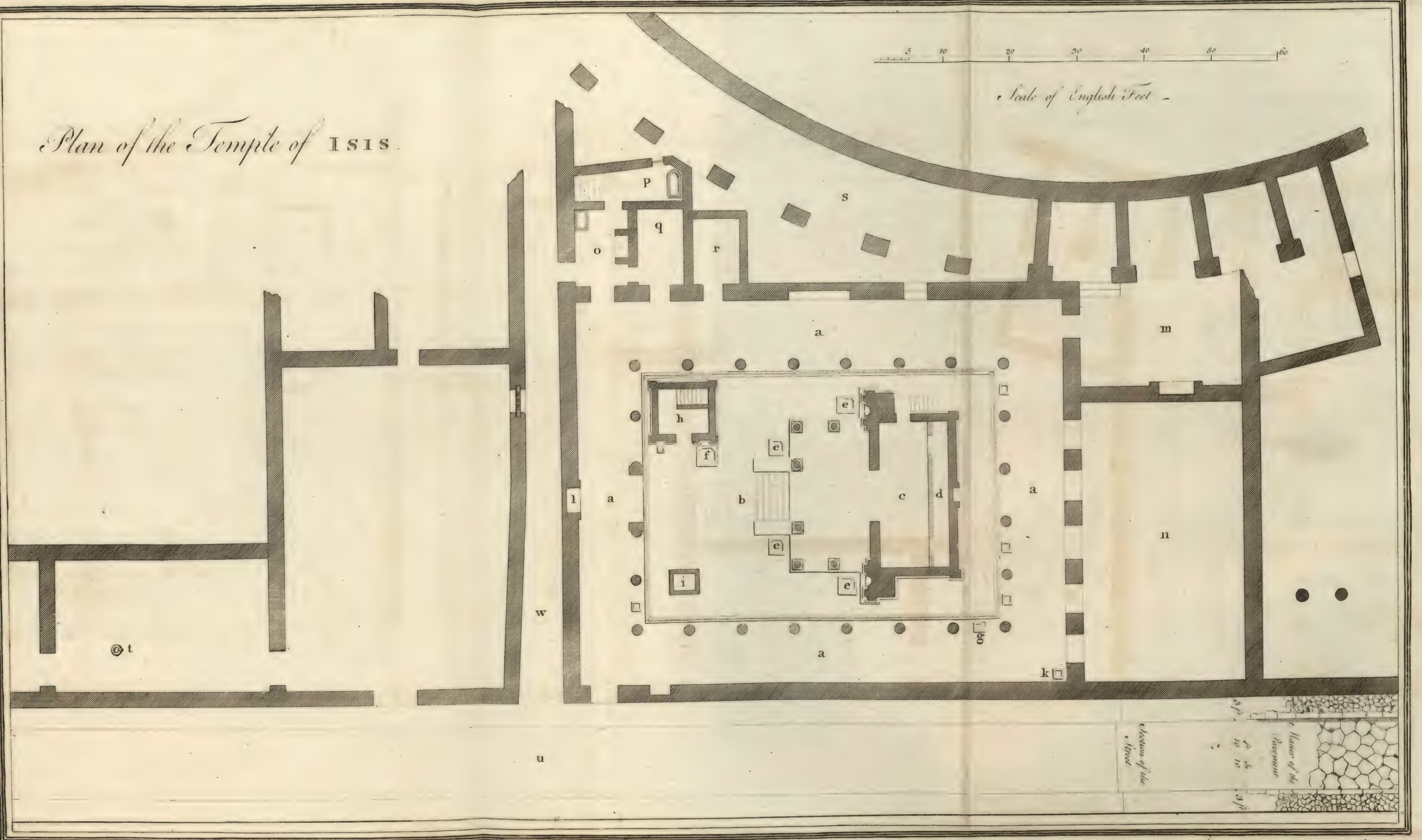
i. Well, in which the ashes of the victims were deposited.

k. Pedestal,

Plan of the Temple of ISIS.

5 10 20 30 40 50 60

Scale of English Feet.



k. Pedestal, on which was found a beautiful statue of Isis about two feet high. It is of marble, the drapery was painted of a tender purple colour, and some parts of it gilt. She had a fistrum of bronze in her right-hand; and in the left, the common Egyptian symbol which is explained by Antiquaries as the key to the sluices of the Nile.

l. Niche in the wall for a Statue.

m. Room where the utensils, perfumes, gums, &c. used at the sacrifices, were kept.

n. A great hall, where it is supposed that parts of the victim were eaten by the priest. There are marked on the floor, in Mosaic some names of the family of Celsinus; for what purpose is not known.

o. A kitchen.

p. Room with a small vessel for bathing.

q. Apartment for the keeper of the temple.

r. Corridor of the great theatre, which adjoined to the temple.

u. Principal street through the city, the horse-way of which in this part is only ten feet 10 inches wide, paved with flat stones of an irregular pentagon figure, their thickness from ten to fourteen inches. On each side is a foot-way raised eight inches, and three feet wide paved with small stones at random. It is fenced by a curb stone, in which, at the distance of every twelve or fourteen feet, is placed a guard stone sixteen inches high, to keep off the carriages, and it might also have served the purpose of horse-blocks, which were very necessary for the ancients, who did not make use of stirrups. This street is much narrower than any I have seen; the Appian way at Puzzole is thirteen feet seventeen inches wide in the clear of the horse-way. The tracks

tracks of the wheels of the carriages are worn in some parts into the pavement of Pompeii four inches deep.

w. Passage to the keeper's apartment.

THE disposition of this temple is very different from those described by Vitruvius, and it was probably built on the plan settled for the Egyptian worship. By the size of this temple, it does not appear to have been of much consequence; and indeed in the inscription it is only called the *Chapel* of Isis.

THERE are ruins of another temple at Pompeii, the columns of which were between four and five feet diameter.

SOME traces of a deviation from the original plan of this temple (when it was rebuilt by N. Popidius Celsinus) are visible: the columns do not all stand in their original situation. Perhaps the architect found it advisable to give a different disposition to the inter-columnation of the portico.

IN an apartment near the temple is a bronze-ring fixed into the pavement marked t. in the plan. Perhaps the larger victims, offered in this temple, were first slaughtered in that place; and the parts, or whole of the beast, were carried from thence to the altars; which was not the case at the temple of Serapis at Puzzole, where the rings, to which the victims were tied, are still to be seen in the pavement of that very magnificent temple.





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